



Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

Devotional:

As we have explored the wonderful salvation which we received when we trusted Christ, we have seen that God has, at the moment of our conversion, justified us, regenerated us, adopted us, given us the Gift of the Holy Spirit and baptised us (with the Spirit). As a result, we have a new standing of righteousness, a new life and character, a new Father, a new Power, and a new position in Christ. But you may ask "Will all of this last?" "Am I secure and safe from the possibility of losing it all?" The answer comes in the sixth work which God has performed at our conversion, a work which gives us the SECURITY we are looking for.

God the Holy Spirit SEALED US at our conversion. "Having believed, you were (at that moment) SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT of promise who is THE GUARANTEE OF OUR INHERITANCE and the redemption of the purchased possession." (Eph 1: 13, 14) What is a seal?

A SEAL IS A SIGN OF OWNERSHIP. In the ancient world, documents were

imprinted with seals to identify their owners, and kings used their rings to imprint seals on their letters to identify from whom they came. Even to-day cattle ranchers brand their animals with their sign of ownership. This seal is God's sign of ownership. He is saying "THEY BELONG TO ME".

A SEAL IS A SIGN OF COMPLETION. A seal is often used, both in the past and present, to finalise an agreement or transaction. Its purpose is to show that the transaction is FINISHED AND COMPLETED. So the sealing of God the Holy Spirit is a sign that the work of salvation is finished. Nothing needs to be added to it.

A SEAL IS A GUARANTEE of our inheritance. It is God's deposit (or earnest) on His work of salvation and it guarantees that all that lies ahead is completely SECURE.

WE CAN TRULY ENJOY OUR SALVATION BECAUSE WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT IT IS SECURE



A warm welcome to all our Mini-Mag readers. Our goal is to provide you, each month, with a four –page magazine-like publication with many different facets and sections, but with each designed to help you in your Christian life and in your ministry to children. We trust you will find each issue a source of blessing for you and your ministry. If you do, we would appreciate it very much if you would let other children's workers know about it.



GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT SEALS US

Bible Study:

In our previous issues we have learned three biblical truths about children.

- » Children need to be saved if they are to enter the kingdom of God.
- » Children can be saved when they trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour.
- » Children are more open to the Gospel than adults are. We can remember these three truths more easily by using three key words. The salvation of a child is **NECESSARY, POSSIBLE** and **SIMPLE**.

The fourth biblical truth we learn about children adds the word **GOOD** to these three key words. It is **GOOD** for children to be saved, and to be saved when they are children.

► **THE BIBLE TEACHES US** in Lamentations 3:27 that it is **GOOD** “for a man to bear the yoke **IN HIS YOUTH**,” and Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 12:1 that we “should remember our Creator in the days of our **YOUTH** before the difficult days come.” The Psalmist, in the first 8 verses of Psalm 78, expresses his belief that it was **GOOD** for children to set their hope in God so that they would not become “like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation.”

► **COMMON SENSE TELLS US** that this is so, and that it is **BETTER** to be saved before sinking into the depths of sin and needing to be reclaimed from it. Prevention is always **BETTER** than cure.

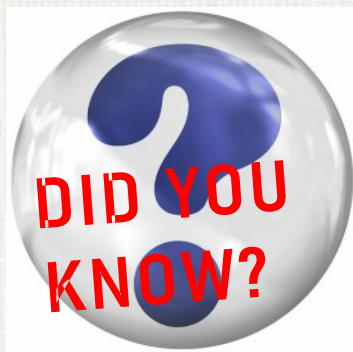
► **A COMPARISON HELPS US** to understand the reasons



why it is **GOOD** for a child to be saved when he is a child.

- A child saved is a life saved. He has his whole life to live for Jesus Christ; but the older an adult is, when he comes to Jesus Christ, the less of life he has to offer to Him and live for Him.
- The personality and habits of the child are being formed, and at conversion the needed change in them is not so radical; those of the adult are already formed and fixed and require a radical change when he trusts Christ.

CHILDHOOD IS THE BEST TIME TO TRUST JESUS CHRIST. DOES IT NOT MAKE SENSE TO EVANGELIZE THEM?



- That our most recent book “Voyage of Discovery” has 365 pages with devotionals for each day of the year. It is available at www.cefbookministry.com. Each devotional explains a doctrine or biblical truth and applies it to everyday living. It is especially directed towards late teens and twenties but could be helpful to all those who want to understand the great truths of the Word of God.

- You will find many more details in this book about the six works God did in you when you trusted Jesus Christ in the book’s devotions for May and June.



ACEW CAN HELP YOU

- We have produced an 8 page booklet with a simple outline of what the Holy Spirit has done in the life of a believer at conversion, and what He still wants to do in our lives after conversion. It is entitled “Resident or President?” and is especially suitable to give to teenagers.

The booklet is available to download from the Internet (click on booklets) at **www.CEFBookMinistry.com**

Your ministry:

Teaching Children

All workmen need and value tools that will help them in their work. We, children's evangelists, are no exception; and one of the most helpful tools we should all have to help us in our evangelism and in our telling of Bible stories, is a little book with four double pages, coloured respectively gold, black, red and white, with a green cover. Because it has colours only and no words, it is known as THE WORDLESS BOOK. Each of the five colours can be used to teach biblical truths to the children, and it has proved to be a very effective and attractive tool which provides you with an excellent way to present and teach the gospel message.

► **THE GOLD PAGE** speaks about God.

+He is pure and holy. (1 Peter 1:16). (Gold is a metal with all impurities removed).

+He lives in Heaven which is pictured with a street of gold in the Bible and as a place without sin (Revelation 21:21).

► **THE BLACK (DARK) PAGE** speaks about sin. This page is dark and reminds us of the dark sinful things in our lives.

+Sin is disobeying God and His commands. (Psalm 51:3,4).

We have all done so: we have all sinned. (Romans 3:23).

+Because God is holy and just, He must judge and punish our sin. (Revelation 20:12)

► **THE RED PAGE** speaks about the death of Christ on the cross and the precious blood He shed for us. (1 Peter 1:19)

+Because He loved us so much, He wanted to save us and forgive us; but there was only one way He could do so.

+He took all our sin upon Himself and God punished Him for all the wrong things WE had done. (1 Peter 2:24)

► **THE WHITE PAGE**

is a picture of how God sees us when we put our trust in Jesus Christ and ask Him to save us.

+ All the sin (past present and future) of every boy or girl who has trusted the Lord Jesus as Saviour is now forgiven.

+God now sees them as pure and as clean as Jesus Christ. He took their sin and gave them His cleanness. (2 Cor. 5:21)

► **THE GREEN PAGE** speaks about the growth which God will want to see in the child's Christian life. (2 Peter 3:18)

+Green grass, flowers and trees all grow. So should saved children. Trusting Jesus Christ is just the start.

+Saved children will grow as they read, study and obey the Word of God. (1 Peter 2:2)

There are three ways you could use the wordless book, and its colours, in your ministry to the children.

- You could use all five pages to give a one-off ten-minute talk to children in a church service or in the open air.

- You could find it a great help when counselling a child and leading him to Christ. (as we will see in later issues)

- You could produce it briefly during your Bible lesson to clarify or explain some points about the gospel message.



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

What is the meaning of "their angels always seeing the Face of My Father in Heaven?"

We learn in Hebrews 1:14, and other verses, that angels are spirits who minister to, or look after, believers. Therefore God has given believing children angels to care for them, and these angels have got special access to the Throne of God. If God thinks so much of believing children, we should not despise them or look down on them. Children, and especially believing children, are important to God. Are they important to you?

If children are so open to the Gospel why are there so relatively few children's evangelists?

The main reason is because many Christians do not see, and understand, the spiritual needs of the children. IF we see children as simple innocent creatures who do not understand what sin is, or who are already, somehow, all in God's kingdom by birth or by baptism, and who could not possibly be lost forever, we do not see the need to evangelize them. Instead we evangelize those whose needs are obvious—the adults and teen-agers, the drunkard and the drug addict.



"Many, many of your books have been distributed all over the country and there has been a great response from the teachers, pastors, and also children. The demand for your books is great." CEF in Myanmar (Burma)

"The Trinity Theological College, the most recognised and prestigious Bible School in the country, has decided to use your books to train its pastors." (Ghana)

"Your resources have been a huge source of help for me in my Sunday school teaching, and also for my bible study. Yes I received the books. thanks very much." (Arabic country)

"CEF has invested so much in me and I will be extremely glad to support this great work. Your books are a great help to me. I believe in CEF Ministry." (USA)

History of Children's Evangelism:

So far, in our Hall of Fame, all of the "heroes" named who have played key roles in the development of an evangelistic ministry to children, have been males. In some ways this is strange, because so much of Christian ministry to children has been carried on, and well carried on, by women. Therefore we now introduce our first female "heroine" who has played a very special role in this ministry.

TRUDY KUHLMAN was born in USA of parents who had emigrated from Austria. She heard the call of God to reach the children of Austria with the Gospel, and in 1955 she returned to the land of her parents, on her own, to start the work of Child Evangelism Fellowship there, and God blessed her ministry. Ten years later, in 1965, God laid a burden on her heart for the children behind the Iron Curtain in the lands of Communist Europe, where a godless regime opposed and forbade a Christian ministry to children. And this small zealous woman started an incredible ministry which was to result in many thousands of children in Communist lands trusting Jesus Christ.

Trudy started to travel, usually on her own, to different parts of Communist Czechoslovakia, to visit and make secret

contact with Christians there. She held and taught small training classes quietly and secretly. She also organized the translation and printing of Czech teaching materials in "the West" and the secret transport of those materials to Czech Christians who were, by this time, quietly evangelizing the children. She was even able to organize two week-long training courses with over 100 pastors and children's workers in each. As a result of all these activities and hundreds of little prayer meetings which had been started to pray for the country's children, a spiritual awakening swept through the children and young people all over Czechoslovakia, and many thousands of them trusted Jesus Christ. The Communist controlled Church even set up a Commission to examine "the wave" which had "swept" through the country's children and young people.

Eventually, Trudy was barred from entering the country. So she started a similar ministry in the even stricter Communist lands of Romania and Bulgaria. She was enthusiastically welcomed by the Romanian pastors and believers who were secretly ministering to children. And during the years which followed, she conducted secret training classes and organised the printing and delivery of teaching materials from "the West" to help the believers to

start Sunday Schools for their children.

Dr. Josef Ton, one of the leaders of the

Romanian Church, said "One day, when we have freedom, we will have to raise a statue to Trudy Kuhlman because she helped us save our children."

After freedom came to Eastern Europe, and Communism collapsed in Romania, Trudy returned to USA and soon afterwards she went to be with her Lord on the 8th July 1994.

TRUDY KUHLMAN we select you as the heroine whom God used to pioneer a ministry to many thousands of children in a difficult, and seemingly impossible, situation. (And I count it a privilege to have been able to work with you)



The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

Personal Advice from the Author:

DON'T DESPISE THEM

In this issue of Mini-Mag, we have come, in our Bible studies, to the end of a brief series of key truths which the Bible teaches about children. We have learned that it is **necessary** for children to be saved, that it is **possible** for children to be saved, that it is relatively **simple** for children to be saved and that it is **good** for children to be saved. Also, we have (almost) come, in our devotionals, to the end of a brief summary of the wonderful blessings which **EVERYONE** who trusts Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour receives the very moment they trust Him. Can you list them? (Check your answer with to-day's devotional on the first page.) What a wonderful salvation!

We need to understand that the child who trusts Jesus Christ as his Saviour receives the same wonderful salvation as the adult who does so. There is only one salvation which is received **BY FAITH** and the God-given faith of the child is as sure as that of the adult. As a result, the saved child receives all these six salvation blessings when he trusts the Lord Jesus. The attitude of many Christians towards children,

who have trusted the Lord Jesus, range from scepticism to "It's a step in the right direction." But the reality is so much more than that. This child's sins, past present and future, are all forgiven, he has a new nature, a new Father, a new family, a new power and a new security. It will take a long time for them to understand all of this. God has called us to help them do so, as we teach them the Word of God.

Don't forget the command of the Lord Jesus, "Take heed that you DO NOT DESPISE one of THESE LITTLE ONES (who believe)... in Heaven their angels always see the Face of My Father in Heaven" (Matt. 18:11) He doesn't despise them.



The Mini-Mag is published by Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide and written by Sam Doherty with the assistance and advice of Terry Flannigan, Director of the ACEW Trust, and Kenneth Martin, Chairman of the ACEW Trust.

All of them have occupied leadership positions for many years in the worldwide ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship®. The contents of each Mini-Mag are based upon the author's 70 years of experience working with Child Evangelism Fellowship, successively as national director of Irish CEF, as European CEF regional director and as founder of the CEF Specialised Book Ministry. Contact can be made at www.CEFBookMinistry.com.